Decline in Exports

2475. SHRI PREM CHAND GUPTA : Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that Indian exports were down by 2.3 per cent in January 2000;

(b) if so, the reasons therefore; and

(c) what remedial steps Government intend to take to check such slide?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. As per the Directorate General of Commercial Intelligence and Statistics provisional data the exports have shown a decline of 2.3 per cent in US $ terms in January 2000 over the corresponding figure of January 1999. Factors like the port strike during this month have partly contributed to this slide.

(c) A number of steps have been taken to further enhance the export growth which include setting up of Special Economic Zones, reduction in transaction cost through decentralisation, simplification of procedures and various other measures as enumerated in the recently announced Exim Policy. Steps have also been taken to promote exports through multilateral and bilateral initiatives, identification of thrust sectors and focus regions.

Export of Floriculture and Horticulture items

2476. SHRI LAJPAT RAI : Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) the details of countries to which floriculture and horticulture items are being exported from India, particularly from Punjab at present;

(b) whether West-Asian and European Countries are the main markets for above said items;

(c) if so the total quantity of floriculture and horticulture items exported to those countries during each of the last three years;

(d) whether there is a vast scope to export above items from Punjab; and

(e) if so, the steps taken to increase export of these items during the Ninth Five Year Plan?